

served more than 20,000 dinners during the year. The system used by this non-profit group harnesses the good intentions of a wide swath of the Henderson community. Friends in the Desert provides a place for the privileged members of society to reach out to those less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the volunteers of Friends in the Desert for their commitment to helping provide food for the homeless. The sheer size and scope of their operation is a testament to their dedication and their efforts should be applauded.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R. RUBANO,
JR.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Superintendent of Farrell School District Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

Mr. Rubano not only serves as the Superintendent of the schools in Farrell, but also teaches a leadership class to juniors and seniors in the school district one day a week. The subjects taught in the class vary from speech preparation to key decisionmaking to job and college outlook. This leadership class has become very popular among students in the Farrell School District.

Mr. Rubano has been the superintendent of the Farrell School District since 1997. Before becoming the superintendent, Mr. Rubano spent many years as a teacher, then principal. Mr. Rubano has served as a team facilitator for a group of ten who designed new math curriculum for grades K-6. He also assisted in writing the district's Act 178 Professional Development Plan. Mr. Rubano has dedicated his career to bettering the education of young minds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing all of the hard work and time Richard R. Rubano Jr. has put in to make the school district better. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

IN HONOR OF LINDA ROSENTHAL
ON THE OCCASION OF HER ELEC-
TION TO THE NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Linda Rosenthal on the occasion of her election to the New York State Assembly. After a lifetime on the Upper West Side, more than 2 decades of community activism, and 13 years as my Manhattan District Director and Director of Special Projects, on February 28th, 2006, Linda was elected to represent the 67th Assembly District. Assemblywoman Rosenthal's dedication to her constituents continues the West Side's legacy

of progressive politics and independent representation in Albany.

Linda first got involved in politics after a dispute with her landlord more than 20 years ago. This experience led her to become a staunch advocate of tenants' rights. Throughout her career, Linda has worked with both individuals and with community groups to secure funding and legislation to help low- and middle-income residents.

As Manhattan Director and Director of Special Projects for the 8th Congressional District, Linda was instrumental in enacting several initiatives to enhance the quality of life for the residents of my District. Linda has been a relentless advocate of such community improvement projects as the Hudson River Park, the 72nd Street subway renovation, various senior and community centers, local parks, playgrounds, and green spaces.

Perhaps Linda's most significant contribution followed the notorious attacks on the World Trade Center in my district on September 11, 2001. Following the attacks, Linda passionately fought the Environmental Protection Agency to provide adequate clean-up efforts to improve the air quality for those who live and work in lower Manhattan. The fight is ongoing, but her dedication to the cause may well save countless lives. Linda also worked strenuously to compel the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to free up more Federal grant money to aid in the economic recovery of small businesses in the area.

In Albany, Assemblywoman Rosenthal has hit the ground running. Since taking office, she has already introduced significant legislation, sponsored over 40 bills, testified before State agencies, and met with community leaders and constituents about the issues facing our neighborhood. She has also been named to the Committees on Housing; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Agriculture; Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; and Energy.

Linda Rosenthal is the kind of public servant every Member of Congress wants to work with. Her selfless dedication to her job, her fierce protection of my office and my reputation, and her genuine interest in helping the greater good, are all a testament to her character. I am saddened to see her leave my office after 13 years, but I am also deeply proud of her. I can't think of anyone who deserves to hold public office more than Linda.

For her commitment to her neighborhood, her city, her State, and her Nation, it is my privilege to congratulate Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal on her record of distinguished service, and on her recent election, and to join the rest of her constituents in high expectations of her future public service.

IN HONOR OF ELSA GREENBERG
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsa Greenberg on the occasion of her 70th birthday. Elsa was born April 25th 1936, in Providence, Rhode Island, six minutes after her twin sister Saralee. Elsa grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts and Port-

land, Maine, and when she was 13, she moved to Miami, Florida.

Elsa studied at the Universities of Alabama and Miami, where she learned to dance and studied education and social psychology. She was married in 1956 to Mel Greenberg, who would later found the Miami-based Greenberg Traurig law firm in 1967.

A devoted wife and mother of three children—Dianne, Carol, and Michael—Elsa was widely-known in South Florida as a thoughtful and gracious hostess, and, with Mel, a generous philanthropist and engaged citizen. She was for many years an avid classical music and tennis fan, a political devotee, and a gourmet cook, even picking up the art of macrobiotic cooking after Mel was diagnosed with cancer. Elsa and Mel were married for 38 years.

Elsa now devotes herself primarily to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her children and their spouses Steve, Mark, and Maria and her grandchildren Arik, Ditty, Daniel, Josh, Brian, Melanie, and Carolina. Elsa continues to be a refined hostess, now passing on her secrets to her family. She has also taken up knitting, amazing her family and friends with her impressive mastery of the craft. Elsa Greenberg continues to be a strong political enthusiast and is, in short, a patriotic citizen—the kind of constituent we all want in our districts.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her nation, it is my privilege to wish Elsa Greenberg a very happy 70th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIGRID
SOMMER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sigrid Sommer for her wonderful service to Las Vegas and her commitment to public international education.

Sigrid Sommer has served with great distinction as Germany's Honorary Consul in the Las Vegas area and beyond. She has enjoyed the highest possible respect for her professional accomplishments, as well as affection for her warmth and friendliness, by all those who have had the privilege of working with her, both in Germany and the United States. She has resided in the Las Vegas area for some 30 years and comes from a distinguished family of diplomats and journalists in Germany. She is a fixture in local business, cultural and political affairs and is married to another well-respected member of the Las Vegas community, attorney George Golson. She has received many accolades for her personal and professional accomplishments, most notably receiving the "Cross of Merit" from the German government in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sigrid Sommer for her personal and professional success. I wish her the best in her retirement.